



NEWS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR EVERS SIGNS BIPARTISAN STEP THERAPY LEGISLATION INTO LAW

Wisconsin becomes 27th state to establish law improving insurer practice through common sense patient protections

JANESVILLE, WI (July 9, 2019) – Governor Tony Evers today officially signed into law step therapy legislation which will greatly improve an insurer practice that previously left many with chronic conditions and health issues suffering in Wisconsin, according to the Wisconsin Step Therapy Coalition, a statewide organization representing individuals with chronic conditions and health care providers. Joined by members of the coalition including patients and providers alike and a bipartisan group of legislators, the Governor held a signing ceremony for the bill at a Janesville pharmacy where many patients will see an impact.

“We are extremely thankful to Governor Evers and the many other leaders in our state who made this law a reality to protect thousands with chronic, progressive and complex conditions,” said Angie Thies, state government relations manager for the National Psoriasis Foundation and Wisconsin Step Therapy Coalition leader. “State leaders joined together in unanimous passage of this measure which has now become law and clearly puts patient concerns first, not last. The Governor and legislators agreed that making patients try-and-fail on multiple medications first before receiving what their doctor ordered was not only a bad insurer policy, but it removed the patient and doctor from the health decision. Now, this law puts strong protections in place to ensure the patient/doctor’s voice comes first and patients are getting the access to the medications they need.”

The Wisconsin State Assembly and Senate voted unanimously earlier approving the legislation and Wisconsin now becomes the 27th state to enact a step therapy law. The coalition indicated the bill does not abolish step therapy, but instead provides strict criteria for when a provider can request an override.

“While it’s not uncommon these days to see some issues become contentious, on step therapy, we were able to find common ground and bring all parties together on this issue,” said Thies. “A big part of that was thanks to the strong leadership of early bill sponsors Rep. John Nygren, Rep. Loren Oldenburg, Rep. Debra Kolste, Sen. Alberta Darling, Sen. André Jacque and Sen. Janis Ringhand. They listened, learned and brought everyone together. Patients and physicians, along with insurers also contributed. The result are common sense protections ensuring patients can now get the right medicine at the right time.”

For additional information, please visit the coalition on [Facebook](#) and Twitter [@WISStepTherapy](#).

Members of the Wisconsin Step Therapy Coalition include: AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin; Allergy & Asthma Network; Alliance for Patient Access; American Academy of Dermatology Association; American Diabetes Association; American College of Rheumatology; American Lung Association in Wisconsin; Arthritis Foundation; Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations; Coalition of Wisconsin Aging and Health Groups; Crohn's & Colitis Foundation; Epilepsy Foundation; Global Healthy Living Foundation; Hometown Pharmacy; International Cancer Advocacy Network; International Pain Foundation; Mental Health America of Wisconsin; Multiple Sclerosis Association of America; National Alliance on Mental Illness - Dane County; National Alliance on Mental Illness Wisconsin; National Infusion Center Association; National Multiple Sclerosis Society; National Organization for Rare Disorders; National Psoriasis Foundation; The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society; US Pain Foundation; Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians; Wisconsin Asthma Coalition; Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association; and the Wisconsin Rheumatology Association.